Introduction to Science Studies II
Situated Knowledges: Gender, Race, Identity, and the “Nature” of “Life” in Bioscience
Spring 2013
Professor Theresa MacPhail
M 6:20-8:20; Draper Conf. Room
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Office hours: W 4:00-6:00pm, or by appointment

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the field of Science & Technology Studies (STS) through the dual lenses of feminist epistemology and postcolonialism. Readings will include a sampling of scholars from anthropology, sociology, history, and philosophy of science. Throughout the semester, we will examine: science and technology as particular types of cultures; the production of knowledge within the biosciences; and how gender and race affect not only the practice and concepts of science, but how we come to think about facts, progress, modernity, our biological selves, and our technological and/or scientific worlds. Our focus throughout the course will be on the biosciences, specifically on biomedical science, genetics, and medicine.

Requirements:

Students will be required to write weekly précises on assigned readings. In addition, students will be responsible for one 30-minute seminar presentation, offering a critical reading of the positions and arguments represented in texts assigned for their chosen day. A final 15-20 page research paper that combines in-class readings with outside materials to examine an aspect of science as a culture. Final paper topic should be discussed with the instructor during office hours. An outline for the final paper is due on March 10. Final paper due May 10. Course-grade will be based on précis (20%), presentation (10%), participation (20%), and final research paper (50%).

Required Texts:

- Adele E. Clarke (Editor), Laura Mamo (Editor), Jennifer Ruth Fosket, (Editor), Jennifer R. Fishman (Editor), Janet K. Shim (Editor). 2010. Biomedicalization: Technoscience, Health, and Illness in the U.S. Duke UP.